

Washington, DC-U.S. Congressman Mike Pence appeared on the 700 Club this morning to discuss the budget, deficits and debt. Below is a transcript of the congressman's remarks. To view the entire video [click here](#) (Pence interview begins about the 9:00 minute mark).

Transcript

"We're facing a \$14 trillion national debt, a \$1.65 trillion annual deficit this year alone, and House Republicans came together in what was really almost an unprecedentedly open process. We considered amendments on a broad range of issues, we found \$61 billion in savings as a down payment, and we also defunded ObamaCare and, for the first time in my five years of trying to do it, we managed to deny all federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America.

"Democrats, liberals in the Senate, for their part, don't want anything to do with even cutting the small amount of \$61 billion compared to that massive debt, and they certainly don't want to put the sanctity of life back at the center of the federal budget like I believe a majority of Americans would choose to do."

"When you listen to Senator Harry Reid go to the floor and say that \$61 billion in budget cuts is reckless and irresponsible and mean-spirited, and then he even defended federal funding for the Cowboy Poetry Institute, this just tells me that they just don't get it. They don't understand the fiscal crisis facing our nation.

"And I learned a long time ago here in Washington, sometimes, things don't change until they have to. And while we bought another three weeks in time for negotiation here, I think probably all we really did was put off the confrontation that's going to have to come between the liberals in the Senate and Republicans in the House. And I know the American people are on our side. They want us to make the hard choices and change the fundamental direction of this government from a spending standpoint, but that's not going to happen without a fight."

"As a tactical matter we could continue to do these short-term extensions over and over, but I think that would be a missed opportunity. When you're talking about the fact that Democrats didn't pass a budget last year, they didn't pass appropriations bills, so we're literally funding the government. We're paying on a pay-as-you-go basis here, keeping the doors open and the lights on.

" That's no way to run a railroad, no way to run a government. We have an opportunity to cut spending this year, to defund ObamaCare from being implemented, to defund Planned Parenthood. I think all of my colleagues from Speaker Boehner on down on the Republican side are prepared to dig in, have that fight and bring about real and meaningful budget cuts this year."

"Well, I'm convinced that with the new voices that have come in the Senate and the unity that we saw in support of the House Resolution H.R. 1 just a couple of weeks ago, that Senate Republicans will stand firm. This is really a battle between liberals in the Senate and this very liberal administration and I think not just House Republicans, but House Republicans and the American people. The American people are clamoring for us to change the fiscal direction of our national government. They're clamoring to respect our values again in the way that we spend our laws. To take a different direction on this government takeover of health care. House Republicans are going to continue to fight for that."

With a \$1.65 trillion deficit this year, \$61 billion is not a very significant amount. Compared to the debt, you'd have to pass those cuts 230 times to resolve the national debt. But it's a down payment. We really believe that the \$61 billion gets us to \$100 billion under what the president wanted to spend. It's what we told the American people we would do as a down payment. But we've got a debt ceiling vote coming up where we're going to demand long-term and short-term cuts beyond that. And we are going to pass a budget that puts our nation on a pathway toward fiscal solvency and toward that horizon of a balanced budget. The American people expect no

less and House Republicans are going to fight for that."

There is a tremendous weight of conformity in Washington, D.C. And the book I read this morning said, 'Be not conformed.' We need to dig in, we need to reject the cultural conformity of spending in Washington, D.C. and that's going to take a confrontation. We're willing to make that stand. Nobody wants to shut down the government, but if we don't take decisive action we're going to shut down the future for our children and grandchildren."

###